

Message Text

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11/62

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 DLOS-04 EB-07 OMB-01 IO-10

/079 W

----- 121330

O R 220250Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE NIACT 9103

INFO AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

CINCSO

UNCLAS LA PAZ 8946

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (LAST PARA)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, PINT, BL

SUBJECT: GOB ANNOUNCES CHILEAN AGREEMENT FOR SEA OUTLET.

IN FIFTEEN MINUTE SPEECH ON NATION WIDE

RADIO AND TELEVISION HOOKUP, PRESIDENT BANZER

FORMALLY ANNOUNCED THAT CHILE HAD MADE SATISFACTORY

RESPONSE TO BOLIVIA'S DEMAND FOR A SOVEREIGN SEACOAST

AND A SOVEREIGN CORRIDOR CONNECTING BOLIVIA TO THAT PORTION

OF THE COAST, AND THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DETAILS WOULD NOW BEGIN.

NOTING THAT THIS WAS CULMINATION OF FIRST STAGE OF MAJOR
EFFORT WHICH COCHABAMBA MEETING OVER A YEAR AGO HAD LEVIED ON
HIM, BANZER STATED THAT BOLIVIA WILL NOW CAREFULLY CONSIDER
THE REQUESTS MADE BY CHILE FOR COMPENSATION, INCLUDING TERRITORIAL
COMPENSATION, SO THAT BOLIVIA'S INTERESTS ARE PROTECTED AND
SO THAT BOLIVIA'S LANDLOCKED CONDITION IS NOT SOLVED
IN EXCHANGE FOR A MORTGAGED CONDITON.

BANZER CALMLY STATED HIS SATISFACTION WITH RESULTS ACHIEVED

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TO DATE AND NOTED THAT IN ACCORDANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL TREATY

REQUIREMENTS CHILE WAS CONSULTING WITH PERU REGARDING ITS OFFER TO BOLIVIA OF A CORRIDOR NORTH OF ARICA. (BANZER DID NOT ANNOUNCE EITHER WIDTH OF SEA FRONT OR CORRIDOR. HE NOTED THAT TERRITORIAL EXCHANGE WOULD NOT ALTER TERRITORIAL EXTENSION, WEALTH OR SECURITY OF EITHER CHILE OR BOLIVIA, BUT GAVE NO OTHER DETAILS REGARDING CHILE'S COUNTER PROPOSAL). ALTHOUGH PUBLIC REACTION WILL BECOME EVIDENT ONLY OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS, EMBASSY HAS DISCUSSED TOPIC IN PAST THREE DAYS WITH ENOUGH INDIVIDUALS OVER A SUFFICIENTLY BROAD SPECTRUM OF SOCIETY TO CONCLUDE THAT THE NEWS WILL BE RECEIVED WITH GREAT JOY, AND WITH SATISFACTION OVER THE RESULTS ACHIEVED THUS FAR BY THE BANZER GOVERNMENT.

THE CHILEAN RESPONSE NO DOUBT WILL BE VIEWED HERE AS A MAJOR DIPLOMATIC AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL TRIUMPH FOR THE BANZER GOVERNMENT. IF PERU SHOULD AGREE TO THE FORMULA AND TO WHATEVER IT MAY BE OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS AGREEMENT (BANZER NOTED THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT ANY SETTLEMENT WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE INTERESTS OF ALL PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT), THERE APPEARS LITTLE DOUBT THAT PRESIDENT BANZER WOULD BECOME A NATIONAL HERO FOR HAVING SOLVED A 97 YEAR OLD PROBLEM FOR THE COUNTRY.

EMBASSY WILL KEEP ADDRESSEES FULLY INFORMED OF REACTIONS HERE.
STEDMAN

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